

Scenario Writing Becomes the Leading American Indoor Sport

Young Man's Fancy Lightly Turns to Thoughts of Love. Preserved in Celluloid.

MICROBE BITES WOMEN, TOO

All Mankind Seems To Be Infected by the Photoplaywrighting Germ.

In the spring young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of scenario writing. And that goes double for young women, if the daily mail of the photoplay editor of The Times means anything.

Scenario writing is the newest pastime of the nation. It appears to be only second in its general adoption or acceptance, to the habit of going to see motion picture productions. A recent census shows that there are exactly 17,728 motion picture theaters in the United States. If each of these theaters gives an average of three shows per day to 500 people each it means that exactly \$4,250,000 go to the motion pictures every day.

Now, striking out of that total the number of children in the audience struck out would undoubtedly like to write scenarios—you'll find a remainder of approximately 2,000,000 grown persons who patronize motion pictures. And it would be conservative to state that at least 1,500,000 of these people want to write scenarios. The photoplay editor of The Times expects himself for the reason that he never wanted to write a scenario and has never tried.

Scenarios In Demand.

Every company producing pictures wants scenarios that are good, strong, dramatic stories. Every company is scouring the country to find people who can write them. And there isn't a single author in the country barred from this work. Authors whose work is in demand by the magazines can get twice to three times as much money from motion picture companies as from magazines and many of them do get it. Every magazine that is published and every new book is examined by the lynx-eyed scenario editors and producers in the hope of uncovering some new genius. And still there is a shortage in photoplaywrights.

The answer is that scenario writing is a business that must be learned—a branch of literature which calls for the imaginative qualities of the novelist and the technical knowledge of the dramatist. No uneducated, inexperienced person can expect to have them. That is none but the rare genius—one of two in a generation.

In the past there have been large sums made by people who went into the business of scenario writing in their spare time. Both of these success stories are sufficient to tempt them to devote all their time to it. But that type of scenario writer is going out of vogue. The patrons of photoplays are demanding better plays and better plays demand trained writers.

One of the very best evidences of this is found in the work that has been done by Cecil and William DeMille in the Laury company, of the Paramount picture. Both of these men have been working for two years writing, adapting, and producing plays. Both brought to their work the result of years of experience as dramatists and actors on the stage. Both were very successful in the theater.

Experience of the DeMilles.

William DeMille has personally produced photoplays—and has personally produced them—since he seems to stand out far above anything that has been produced recently. Cecil DeMille is represented particularly by one—whichever, by the way, he did not write. This one was written by Hector Turnbull, a man who spent years learning to write, and who forsook the position of assistant editor of the New York Tribune. The play was produced in this city this week, with Marie Doro as the star.

"The Heart of Nora Flynn," the DeMille-Turnbull play to which reference is made, is referred to here as representing the perfection of production and co-ordination between the producer and playwright that is essential in photoplay production and writing. It is the sort of play aspiring playwrights should carefully study. It is not a marvelous piece of dramatic work in any sense, but it is almost perfect as a photoplay.

If these men worked so long and so hard to produce this one result, how much longer and harder must a person expect to work who has not their advantage of training and their advantage of studying at first hand all the elements of production?

However, there is always the elusive genius who wants to try. And our mail indicates he is numbered even as the population of the District is numbered. Hence the advice to aspiring playwrights is to write what you think and send it to one of the producers. In this connection it might be well to bear in mind a few things. In The Times yesterday Alice Davenport told how Mack Sennet, who is a first class writer-in-chief, Frederick Palmer, has issued for the guidance of his associates. The circular is a list of "don'ts." It follows:

Keystone "Don'ts."

"DON'T invent excuses—invent stories.

"DON'T forget we pay you to think, but think along our lines.

"DON'T use cut-backs, go on with your story.

"DON'T forget that dialogue does not photograph.

"DON'T make fun of any society or labor organization.

"DON'T despise suggestions; even an elevator boy gives you a hint.

"DON'T have any of your characters dream anything—do all the dreaming yourself.

"DON'T borrow any stories from the magazines—we read twice as much as you do.

"DON'T include old moving picture stories—if you see a picture with a steamboat, swim out to dry land.

"DON'T write your story so a sub-title will be necessary to explain a situation.

"DON'T forget the value of a thrilling situation, try to get the element of suspense into it. The thrill is never so good as when it follows suspense.

"DON'T write stories involving brutality. The Keystone pictures often exaggerate, but as a rule they are within the range of possibility.

G. M.



DOROTHY KELLY,

Young Vitaphone star, to be presented tomorrow and Saturday by the V. L. S. E. Company in "The Supreme Temptation," at the Strand.

GIVEN SILVER SET FOR LONG SERVICE

Miss Lydia Marshall Has Been 25 Years Superintendent.

The silver anniversary of the superintendency of the primary department of Miss Lydia Marshall was celebrated at Calvary Baptist Church last evening with a reception and musical program followed with refreshments.

In the receiving line were Miss Marshall, the Rev. S. H. Greene, the Rev. A. F. Anderson, assistant pastor; N. S. Faucett, superintendent of the Sunday school, and Mrs. L. L. Graham, chairman of the entertainment committee.

Twenty teachers of the primary department presented Miss Marshall with a silver set, the presentation being made by Mrs. Lena Lockwood, and an address was made by Dr. Greene. Musical numbers were given by Miss Wilbur, violin; Miss Deane, cellist; Mrs. Beale Latham Gibson, soprano, and Herbert T. Aldridge, tenor. Mrs. S. E. White gave several readings. Many telegrams and letters were received from members of the congregation unable to be present.

Credit Men Urged to Take Tariff Out of Politics

The Washington Association of Credit Men has been asked to lend its aid to a movement to "take the tariff out of politics."

Congressman Henry T. Rainey of Illinois, author of a bill before Congress to create a tariff commission, was the guest of honor of the association last night at a dinner at the Ebbitt Hotel, discussed the features of his bill and urged the necessity of eliminating politics as a factor in making American tariffs.

Carl C. Mueller, the vice president, was toastmaster, and Fred W. Shealey, the secretary, was chairman of the reception committee.

CHANGES MADE AT GOVT. PRINT SHOP

Appointments, Separations, Transfers, Etc., Announced.

Effective today at the Government Printing Office are the following appointments, separations, transfers, etc.: Appointments—Mrs. Annie G. Diers, skilled laborer, transferred from Bureau of Engraving and Printing; Edward R. Campbell, painter, reinstated; James Nolan, emergency plasterer; Miss Dorothy F. Blackford, probational skilled laborer; Edwin A. Taylor, permanent unskilled laborer; James R. Perry, Loring F. Waite, William B. Gorman, Francis J. Farrell, temporary messenger boys; Frances C. Boone, Beale W. Alphon, Ione S. Mankin, Ida I. Tolinger, Nellie A. Kenney, Mary M. McConnell, Margaret P. Cullen, Lillie M. Loughery, Ruth M. Muench, Marian K. McLane, Olive E. Disney, Lumina N. Keels, temporary skilled laborers.

Separations—Carroll Harbaugh, compositor, resigned; Miss Elsie M. Dahlen, press feeder, resigned; Thomas S. Sanger, bookbinder; William D. Randolph, temporary messenger boy, resigned; Benjamin K. Martin, helper, resigned.

Transfers, etc.—Frank J. Corea, temporary messenger boy, 10c per hour, head section, to probational messenger boy, 85c per annum, office of superintendent of documents; Aloysius T. Costello, probational messenger boy, 47c per hour, press division, to skilled laborer, 30c per hour, press division; William Wilson, skilled laborer, 30c per hour, printing and sewing section, to oiler, 30c per hour, engineer section.

Struck By Car.

Joseph Wheeler, colored, of Nauck, Va., is in a serious condition at Georgetown University Hospital, with a fractured skull. Wheeler was struck by a Falls Church car last night. He was walking on the tracks, it is said.

SODALITY HOLDS ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Attractive Program Presented by Members of Sacred Heart Society.

With a program consisting of song and dance numbers and novel features, the sodality of the Sacred Heart held its annual assembly at the Arcade last night. Nearly 600 members of the sodality and their guests thronged the big auditorium for the occasion.

Addresses were made by the Rev. Ignatius Smith, O. P., of the Dominican order, and the Rev. P. C. Gavan, the Rev. John F. Eckenrode, and the Rev. Francis J. Hurney, of the Sacred Heart Church.

Valentine Hess, Lillian Keschling, and Bernadette Sheehan gave violin solos, and Agnes Whelan, Edna Hilliard, Mrs. Fred Rice, and Thomas Cantwell sang. A song and dance was given by Estelle Murray, Camille Little and Catherine Donovan, and a Yama Yama dance by the parish dramatic association in which Avis and Doris Rabbitt, Theresa Keleher, Mamie Schuyler, Nina Morgan, and Helen Smith participated. A ventriloquist act by Frank Green and moving pictures of the Canadian Rockies, by courtesy of the Garden Theater, concluded the program.

The committee in charge were: Floor, Marie Barker, Anna Smith, Helen Ferguson, Katherine Fegan, and Elizabeth Dodson; door, Katherine Connor, May Lanigan, Agnes Riordan, and Isabel Hauser; refreshments, Mrs. Lehane, Beale Dodson, and Mrs. DeFronzo.

The officers of the sodality are: Spiritual director, the Rev. Francis J. Hurney; secretary, Katherine Connor, assisted by Agnes Riordan; prefect, Marie Barker, assisted by Mrs. Lehane and Mary Graham; organist, Elizabeth Hogan.

TODAY'S BEST FILMS

By GARDNER MACK.

Lee's Columbia, Twelfth and F streets—Pauline Frederick in "The Moment Before," adapted from the play by Israel Zangwill (Famous Players).

Circle, 205 Pennsylvania avenue—Charlotte Walker in "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," by Eugene Walter, from the book by John Fox, Jr. (Lask).

Strand, Ninth and D streets—Nance O'Neill in "The Flames of Jealousy," adapted from the play by Herman Sudermann (V. L. S. E. Selig).

Garden, 43 Ninth street—Olga Petrova in "Playing With Fire" (Metr).

Carroll, North Carolina avenue, near Eleventh street southeast—Harry Metcayer in "The Millionaire Baby," adapted from the story by Anna Katherine Green (V. L. S. E. Selig).

Crandall's, Ninth and E streets—William Farnum and Dorothy Bernard in "The Man of Sorrow," adapted from the play, "Hoodman Blind" (Fox Film Corporation).

Dumbarton, Wisconsin avenue and O street—Kathryn Williams in "The Rosary" (V. L. S. E. Selig).

Apollon, 64 H street northeast—Theodore Roberts in "Pudd'nhead Wilson," adapted from the story by Mark Twain (Lasky).

Avenue Grand, 445 Pennsylvania avenue—Vivian Martin in "A Modern Thelma," adapted from the story by Marie Corelli (Fox Film Company).

Olympia, 121 You street—Charles Chaplin in "Carmen," a burlesque of the story by Prosper Merimee (V. L. S. E. Selig).

Masonic Auditorium, Thirteenth street and New York avenue—John Barrymore in "The Sign of the Cross" (World Film Corporation).

Cosmos, Pennsylvania avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets—Fritzi Brunette in "Those Who Sin" (V. L. S. E. Selig).

Uncle Harry Explains Plans for Conventions

Tells About Spring Primary Elections and Other Means of Getting Ready for Big Political Gatherings.

"HASN'T there been a great deal of political news in the paper lately?" asked Joe.

"About President Wilson and Colonel Roosevelt, and a man named Hughes," said Joe in a questioning way, before Uncle Harry had a chance to answer.

"I see you're genuine Americans—taking an interest in politics already," said Uncle Harry good naturedly.

"Glad of it, too, boys. Every citizen should take an interest in politics. Being a citizen of the United States is like belonging to a big club. What would you think of a fellow who belonged to a club but never took any interest in the affairs of the club and never attended any of the meetings and never voted at the elections for club officers? He wouldn't be a good club member, would he?"

"No, he wouldn't," said Jimmy promptly.

"Same way with a citizen of the United States," said Uncle Harry. "Sometimes I hear people say that a man ought not to have anything to do with politics, simply because some politicians are dishonest.

"But the trouble, boys, is not with politicians, which simply means a man with politics, simply because some politicians are dishonest.

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"That means that the States are selecting the delegates that will go to Chicago and St. Louis and choose the candidates," said Uncle Harry.

"How are these delegates selected?" asked Joe.

"In some of the States they are chosen at conventions—that is, meetings of the Republican and Democratic citizens. In other States, where the laws provide for what are called 'Presidential Primary Elections'—there are twenty-two such States—the delegates are elected just as the candidates for all public offices are elected.

"Except this: only Republican voters can vote for the delegates to the Republican convention, and only Democrats can vote for delegates to the Democratic convention. In other words, the members of each party select the delegates who in turn will nominate the candidates who will be voted on at the Presidential election next November.

"Four and possibly five," said Uncle Harry.

"The Socialist candidate has already been selected by the members of that party. He is a magazine writer named Allan L. Benson.

"The Democratic candidate undoubtedly will be President Wilson, who will try to be re-elected.

"The Republican candidate may be Colonel Roosevelt, who was President from 1897 to 1901, or Charles E. Hughes, now a member of the United States Supreme Court and formerly governor of New York, or it may be Elihu Root, a prominent lawyer and Secretary of State under President Roosevelt; or, it may be some one whose name has not been mentioned in the newspapers.

"The prohibition party will also nominate its candidate.

"When and where will the Republican and Democratic candidates be selected?" asked Joe.

"The Republican convention will meet in Chicago, during the week beginning June 7, and the Democratic convention will meet one week later, beginning June 14—in St. Louis."

"You said there might be five candidates, but you've named only four," said Jimmy.

"If there is a fifth he will be the candidate of the Progressive party, a new party which was started four years ago when Colonel Roosevelt and many of his friends and admirers left the Republican party and at a convention of their own nominated Mr. Roosevelt as the Progressive candidate.

"This year the Progressive party plans to convene in Chicago at the same time as the Republican convention. Many people believe that the leaders of the Republican and Progressive parties will 'make up' as boys say after they have had a quarrel, and that Colonel Roosevelt will be nominated as the Republican party candidate. We'll have to wait until June and see."

"Uncle Harry, you said something about the country getting ready for the conventions; what did you mean by that?" asked Joe.

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tion. If they are elected delegates they must cast their first vote for the candidates they pledged themselves to support.

"After that first vote at the convention, if no candidate receives enough votes to nominate him and more votes, delegates have to be taken, the delegates may vote for whichever candidate seems to have the best chance of winning the nomination."

"Tell us how the work is done at the convention," said Jimmy.

"Can't do that tonight, Jimmy, that's quite a long story," said Uncle Harry. "But I will tell you all about conventions just before the big meetings are held at Chicago and St. Louis."

Uncle Harry will be glad to answer inquiries, either in this column or by mail, provided letters are signed with the full name and address of the person writing. The correspondence names will not appear in the articles.

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Customs of Old Judea Described By Lecturer

Concluding sessions of the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society were held yesterday afternoon in the National Museum. Prof. J. Morgenstern, of Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, described the customs of ancient Judea.

Four times a year, the speaker explained, the people gathered in the vineyards, and the maidens, garbed in white robes, danced before the youths, each of whom selected a wife from among the dancers.

One of the principal speakers of the afternoon was W. N. Brown, of Johns Hopkins University, whose subject was "Introductory Remarks to a Bibliography of Indian Folklore." Mr. Brown, in reciting an Indian version of the story of Aladdin, stated that when the husband came to the wife in the guise of a dog, she immediately recognized him.

Walter T. Swingle, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, called attention to the unusual collection of Chinese and Japanese books now in the Library of Congress.

Other speakers were F. F. Bloomhardt, Dr. Cusanowicz, and Dr. J. B. Nies.

Odd Fellows' Anniversary Celebrated Last Night

Odd Fellows' Hall was filled to capacity last night when the ninety-seventh anniversary of the organization was celebrated. Vocal and instrumental musical numbers were furnished by the Cecilia Concert Company under the personal management of Gertrude Lyons.

Congressman George Huddleston, grand master of Alabama, made the principal address, following the invocation by Grand Chaplain Petty. Deputy Grand Master Irving R. Schwinger opened the meeting.

A dancing program concluded the entertainment.

Changes in Personnel At Commerce Department

The Department of Commerce announced today the following changes in its personnel:

Harvey R. Dickens has been transferred from the Interior Department to work at \$800 in the Bureau of the Census.

In the Bureau of Standards, E. W. Boulton, associate chemist, a chemist has resigned, and Harold F. Strawn has been provisionally appointed as laboratory assistant at \$1,200.

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TIMES WANT ADS BRING RESULTS